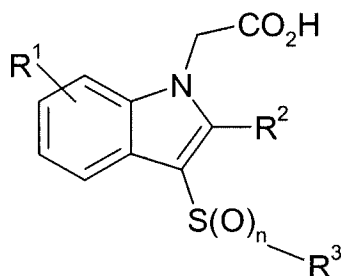


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which:

n represents 1 or 2;

R¹ is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO₂R⁴, OR⁴, SR⁴, SOR⁴, SO₂NR⁵R⁶, CONR⁵R⁶, NR⁵R⁶, NR⁹SO₂R⁴, NR⁹CO₂R⁴, NR⁹COR⁴, aryl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl or C₁₋₆alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR⁷ and NR⁸R⁹, NR⁸R⁹, S(O)_xR⁷ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R² is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO₂R⁴ or CONR⁵R⁶, COR⁴ or C₁₋₇alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR⁸ and NR⁵R⁶, S(O)_xR⁷ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4 , OH, OR^4 , SR^4 , SOR^4 , $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6 , $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, NR^9COR^4 , C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^7 and NR^8R^9 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^4 represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^{10} and $NR^{11}R^{12}$ $S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where x = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR^{13} and $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_x$ where x is 0, 1 or 2, NR^{16} , and the ring itself optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

R^7 and R^{13} independently represent a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, $C(O)R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); or an aryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{14} , R^{15} , independently represents a hydrogen atom, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, $-C(O)C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C(O)YC_{1-4}$ alkyl, Y is O or NR^7 .

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.~~

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 2.
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R¹ is halogen, nitrile, C₁₋₆alkyl or SO₂R⁴, NO₂, NR⁹COR⁴, NR⁹SO₂R⁴, aryl, NR⁵R⁶.
4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which the R¹ substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.
5. (Previously presented) A compound according claim 1 in which R² is C₁₋₆alkyl.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 in which R³ is phenyl substituted by halogen.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:
 - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
 - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
 - 4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
 - 3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid, and
5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
or a and pharmaceutically acceptable salt salts thereof.

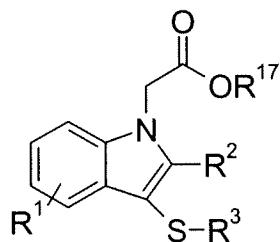
8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of treating asthma or rhinitis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claim 1.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 1 which comprises:

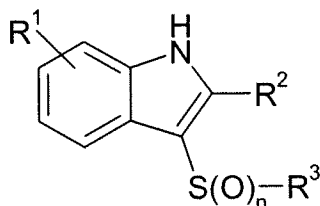
(a) oxidation of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

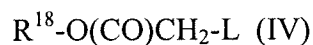
in which R¹⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl and R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, or

(b) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

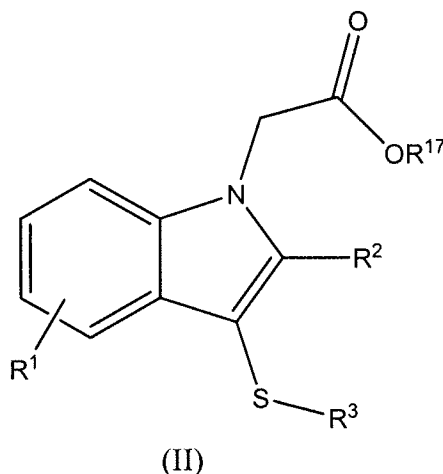
in which R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (IV):



where R¹⁸ is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group R¹⁷ or R¹⁸ to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

15. (New) A compound of formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein:

R^{17} is hydrogen or alkyl;

R^1 is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4 , OR^4 , SR^4 , SOR^4 , $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6 , $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, NR^9COR^4 , aryl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR^7 and NR^8R^9 , NR^8R^9 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO_2R^4 or $CONR^5R^6$, COR^4 or C_{1-7} alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 is aryl or a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4 , OH, OR^4 , SR^4 , SOR^4 , $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6 , $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, NR^9COR^4 , C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^7 and NR^8R^9 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^4 represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^{10} and $NR^{11}R^{12}S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where $x = 0, 1$ or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, or an aryl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR^{13} and $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_x$ where x is 0, 1 or 2, NR^{16} , and the ring itself optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

R^7 and R^{13} independently represent a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, or an aryl or group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, $C(O)R^9$, C_1 - C_6 alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl group, which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); or an aryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{14} , R^{15} , independently represents a hydrogen atom, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, or an aryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $-C(O)C_1$ - C_4 alkyl, $C(O)YC_1$ - C_4 alkyl, Y is O or NR^7 .